

# Identification of *Dikerogammarus* and other British Freshwater Shrimps

This identification sheet is derived from the FBA's publication, *Guide to Freshwater Invertebrates* which will be available in 2011 as a tribute to T.T. Macan.

*Dikerogammarus villosus* (often referred to as the killer shrimp) is an amphipod native to south-eastern Europe, which has recently spread to western Europe. In September 2010 it was found in Grafham Water, Cambridgeshire.

If you find *Dikerogammarus*, please send a photo and details of location to [alert\\_nonnative@ceh.ac.uk](mailto:alert_nonnative@ceh.ac.uk).

## Identification

Size and colour are useful aids to identification, but the projections on the urosome are definitive.

### Maximum body length:

*Crangonyx pseudogracilis*: 10 mm

*Gammarus* species: 20 mm

*Dikerogammarus villosus*: 30 mm

### Body colour:

*Crangonyx pseudogracilis*: Bluish-white (when live)

*Gammarus* species: Striped or uniform

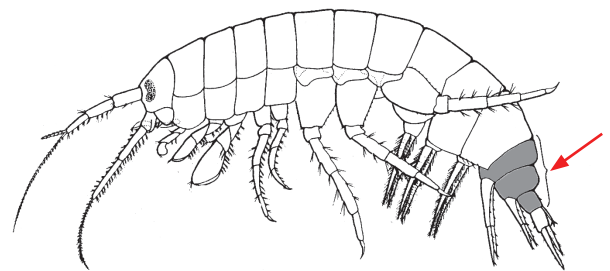
*Dikerogammarus villosus*: Striped or uniform

### Features on urosome:

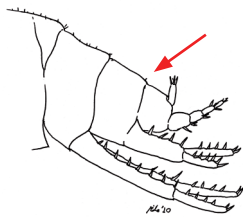
*Crangonyx pseudogracilis*: Urosome generally smooth (short fine setae may be present)

*Gammarus* species: Dorsal setae or spines present on all three segments

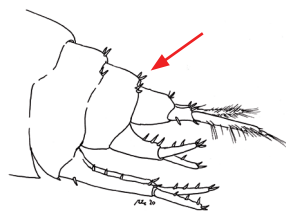
*Dikerogammarus* species: Urosome segments 1 and 2 each with a dorsal projection



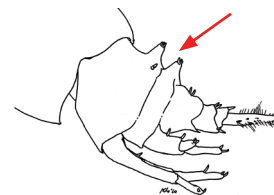
*Gammarus* with urosome highlighted \*



*Crangonyx pseudogracilis*



*Gammarus* sp.



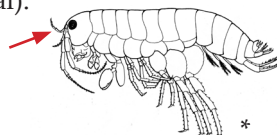
*Dikerogammarus villosus*

## Other Amphipoda found in fresh water

*Orchestia cavimana* (semi-terrestrial):

Very short first pair of antenna (arrowed)

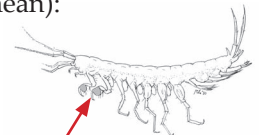
Max length: 20 mm



*Niphargus* species (mostly subterranean):

Eyeless. Gnathopod hands (arrowed) about as broad as long

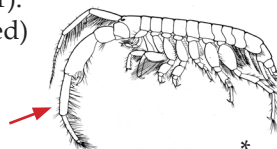
Max length: 15 mm



*Corophium* species (brackish water):

Enlarged second antenna (arrowed)

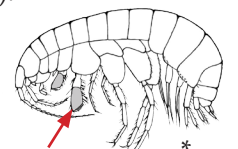
Max length: 9 mm



*Crangonyx subterraneus* (subterranean):

Eyeless. Gnathopod hands (arrowed) longer than broad

Max length: 6 mm



\* from Gledhill *et al.* (1993). *British Freshwater Crustacea Malacostraca*. Freshwater Biological Association, SP52.